The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME 4 - NUMBER 5 FEBRUARY, 1956

One Great Hour of Sharing

Time to SHARE

A Challenge to Christianity

by the Honorable Francis B. Sayre

(Mr. Sayre, who was for five years U. S. High Commissioner to the Philippines, has served more recently as the personal representative in Japan of the Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. To accept this appointment, he resigned as U. S. delegate on the United Nations' Trusteeship Council with the rank of Ambassador. Thus, as diplomat and churchman he speaks from first-hand knowledge of the spiritual and physical needs of those in other lands.)

We are living today in a generation more challenging, perhaps, than any since the Reformation.

In the new world which we are building we are coming to realize, partly as a result of the monstrous tragedies of two World Wars, partly as a consequence of the fast-growing interdependence of nations and of peoples, that all men, whatever their background or the color of their skin, are of a single human family.

We are learning that lasting peace, with a civilization that will prove enduring, cannot be had in a world built upon exalted nationalism, imperialism and Nineteenth Century colonialism. Lasting peace can be built only upon human brotherhood.

This is what Christ was trying to make men understand 1900 years ago. It is this that constitutes the very cornerstone of Christianity.

Today our post-war international experiences are beginning to turn men's minds in this same direction.

In the critical days at the close of World War II, we found it necessary to build an international organization, UNRRA, to bring help and food to the suffering people in the wake of the retreating and ravaging German and Japanese armies.

One of the experiences I can never forget was our visit in 1945 to the remote mountain villages of Greece from which the people had been driven by the destroying German armies before their retreat. We watched the half-starving Greek peasants returning to their ruined villages, and saw them uplifted to a new vision of human brotherhood by UNRRA workers helping them to rebuild their ravaged homes.

The New World of our time, now in the making, stands poised and trembling between the message of Jesus Christ — belief in the supreme power of the spiritual over the material, in the sacredness of human personality, in the living presence here and now of an overruling God — as against such godless thinking as the Communists proclaim — faith in material might as the supreme power in the world, a belief in the right of the strong to enrich themselves by exploitation of the weak, and the seeking of an international society based not upon human welfare but upon each nation's separately seeking its own selfish objectives.

Today in the Far East, the Soviet Union — like a great reservoir—is piping out streams of contaminating Communism throughout Asia. The developing situation in Asia comes to us with a distinct shock. Only a tiny fringe of people in Asia today are Christian.

China, with its 450 millions of people, already has become engulfed in Communism. In Red China the older Christian generation is dying off; youth is being forced into Communist ways of thinking. The very life of the message of Christianity there is today at stake.

In India, out of a population of some 375 millions, less than 9 millions are Christians — less than three percent. In Thailand, less than two percent of the population is Christian.

The great Mohammedan world, extending through Central and Western Asia, through Iran and Arabia and Pakistan, and, on the northern shores of Africa, through Egypt, Algeria and Morocco, continues seemingly almost untouched by the impact of Christian missions.

Japan is yet a power to be reckoned with.The Japanese people today — disillusioned, frustrated, questioning — sense the need of a new way forward. Will it be the way of Christianity?

Do Christians realize that a third of all the people in the world are already engulfed in Communism? Communism is a fighting faith. It is steadily advancing.

Christianity in great areas of Asia is being throttled.

In the face of our secular Twentieth Century civilization, tempestuous and spectacular, what can Christians actually do to build a better world?

Christians surely must be working on many fronts. There is no field of human endeavor in which Christianity cannot play a dramatic and uplifting part.

Among the most appealing of these is the challenging work of American Christian denominations through Church World Service in ministering to human want.

Our minds go back to Christ. Surprising as it may seem, He spent the greater part of His ministry not in the building of churches or the organization of religious groups, but in manifesting His love through the healing of stricken men and women, helping for love's sake to meet sore need.

Today in vast areas of Asia and Africa, men and women are suffering and dying in want and hunger. They lack the help which perhaps only we can give.

Not long ago I was in South Korea. Never have I witnessed such stark and widespread human need. Men, women and children lack elemental human necessities—shelter, food, clothing, medicine. Thousands and thousands of refugees have had to flee with their families from their homes, stripped of all belongings and with no means of earning their livelihood.

Countless thousands are living in boxes of houses, roughly constructed of cardboard, scraps of frayed tin roofing, broken boards and refuse, without plumbing or windows or other necessaries — dirty, unkept, unsanitary, impos-

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Architectural Counsel

Dr. John R. Scotford, nationally known consultant on church building, will be in the Southeast Convention area from Feb. 26 through March 9 for a series of institutes and individual counselling on church building. Dr. Scotford's itinerary is in charge of the Rev. Joe A. French, chairman of the SEC Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education, which is sponsoring these institutes.

Dr. Scotford's Itinerary

Feb. 26 — Brookmeade, Nashville, Tenn.

Feb. 27 — Pilgrim, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Feb. 28 — Pilgrim, Birmingham, Ala.

Feb. 29 — Liberty, East Tallassee, Ala.

March 1 — First, Douglas, Ga.

March 2 — Pleasant Hill, Gaillard, Ga.

March 3 — First, Columbus, Ga.

March 4 — Langdale, Ala.

March 5 — Hillside and United, LaGrange, Ga.

March 6 — Huguley, Lanett, Ala.

March 6-7-8 — Institute on Church Architecture at Lanett, Ala.

March 9 — Atlanta, Ga.

Pastors and laymen of nearby churches are urged to contact the host pastor if they wish to attend, or to have Dr. Scotford visit a nearby church.

Deering Summer School

The Deering Summer School for Congregational Christian Pastors, sponsored by the Board of Home Missions, will be held at Deering, New Hampshire July 11 to Aug. 1.

Application blanks will be sent out to ministers indicating their desire to attend this summer. A few have already notified the Superintendent that they would like to attend, and there is a limited number of applicants that can be accepted.

Dr. Truman B. Douglass is Dean again this summer, and the faculty will include Dr. B. Davie Napier of Yale, Dr. Roger Shinn of Vanderbilt, Dr. Browne Barr of Yale, Dr. Robert W. Spike, Dr. Wesley A. Hotchkiss, the Rev. Everett Parker, Dr. Harry T. Stock, and Dr. Howard E. Spragg.

The Minister And The Income Tax

(Excerpts from information compiled by the American Baptist Convention)

Allowable Deductions

Automobile Expenses: to be deducted from cash salary—expenses of car as estimated used professionally over against personal use. This is apt to run 70% or 85%. Depreciation for cost of car should be spread over four years, that is if car cost $1,600, $400 a year may be taken as depreciation. If a second-hand car is purchased, it may be depreciated over two or three years. Keep a record of all expenses of gasoline, repairs, upkeep and operation, insurance.

Contributions: Keep a careful record of all contributions, the amounts and to what organizations paid. Deductions for contributions are permitted up to 20% of adjusted gross income; up to an additional 10% is permitted for contributions to churches, tax-exempt educational institutions and tax-exempt hospitals.

Interest: Interest on mortgage on a home, on personal debts, on personal loans, on instalment purchases.

Taxes: Real estate taxes, state income tax, personal property tax, auto and driver's license fees, state or local retail sales taxes. Gasoline tax may be estimated. One cannot list here gasoline taxes which are included in automobile expenses deducted under professional use of car.

Losses: Value of property stolen and not covered by insurance; loss by fire, storm damage or flood, damage to automobile not covered by insurance.

Medical and Dental Expenses: If such expenses exceed 3% of the adjusted gross income the excess is deductible. Such expenses include cost of medicines and drugs that exceed 1% of adjusted gross income; fees paid to doctors, dentists, nurses, hospitals, convalescent homes, X-ray examinations or treatment; medical or surgical appliances, such as surgical belt, hearing aid, invalid chair, orthopedic shoes, etc. (if not reimbursed by insurance).

Professional Expense: Professional books and magazines—deduct full amount of normal expenditures; cost of office and study equipment (if large, to be depreciated over several years); cost of office supplies, stationery, postage, etc.; cost of professional clothing, such as pulpit robe. If a room is set aside in the home for a study-office, pro rata expenses may be deducted for maintenance — for example 1/7 of expenses of a 7-room house for light, heat, insurance; and a proportionate estimate of expense of telephone for professional use. Expenses of attending religious conferences, institutes (not reimbursed by the church) and dues to professional organizations; entertainment expenses for entertaining church groups or visiting speakers in your home or elsewhere. Keep a careful record of dates and itemized expenses.

Ministers Tax Timetable 1956

April 16 — File declaration of estimated tax for 1956 and pay one-fourth; or, if you paid the one-fourth of estimated tax on Jan. 16, file final return for 1955 and pay balance due or take credit for overpayment.

June 15 — Pay one-fourth estimated tax for 1956.

Sept. 17 — Pay one-fourth estimated tax for 1956.

Jan. 15, 1957 — Either a) pay the fourth one-fourth for 1956, or b) file final return for 1956 and pay balance due.

Declaration of estimated tax filed in April may include estimated Social Security Tax. This, in effect, will enable you to pay your Social Security Tax as well as your Income Tax quarterly.

Further, you will find it makes for ease to be somewhat generous in estimating your tax when you file the declaration. Then, when you come to the final quarter's payment you will not be embarrassed with an unusually large payment.

(This material on ministerial deductions for income tax was sent to the SEC by the Rev. Russell T. Loesch, and we hope it will be helpful to ministers of the Convention.)

Men believe that willingly which they wish to be true. — Caesar

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The Church Must Make A Difference

I should like to see our denomination have the reputation of being outstandingly community minded; concerned for a strategic churching of the city and the countryside; an advocate for slum clearance and soil conservation; a spokesman for the dignity of labor and the sancitity of the soil; enemy of juvenile delinquency wherever it exists; loyal supporter of the public schools and all other agencies making for community health; articulate in praise of good government and in denouncing flagrant dishonesty and corruption. The list is merely illustrative. What I am saying is that the Church must be vital, must make a difference, must be informed, must be intelligent, must bear witness. For we shall commend ourselves to the community by what we are — not by what we claim to be.

— Stanley U. North

The Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Minister of Christian Education for SEC, was elected secretary-treasurer of the National Council of State and Regional Directors of Christian Education at the Mid-winter Meeting.

Belief consists in accepting the affirmations of the soul; unbelief, in denying them.—Emerson

The S. O. S. In Action

The following excerpts from a letter signed "Your grateful missionary" tell the story straight from the field where surplus foods and vitamins have been shared through us. The letter comes from Lillian Pickens, Nasrapur Spiritual Life Center, Nasrapur, Poona District, India.

"At present there are nearly 300 children in our fine Primary School, out of whom more than half are certified by the doctor as needing 'special feeding'. So they get skim milk, calcium, iron and multivitamins as required. In addition to those on the rolls of Infant Welfare Centers at Waduth and Satara (90 infants) the health visitors also give milk at Friendship Center in the city, and now 200 at Waduth in our extra feeding program. Much of the milk comes from Church World Service. How we thank God for it as well as for the cheese and butter oil that has recently begun to reach us.

"Oh, if you in America could only realize how much good-will and good health is being built up round the world by these gifts of surplus food, and your own sacrificial gifts of soap and food and clothing. It is helping to build strong bodies and brains, and to combat communism as nothing else can do for it is the love of Christ in action. It does more than volumes of sermons to touch the hearts of the underprivileged who are longing to grow strong enough to help themselves and others."

One Great Hour Of Sharing

Once more we are approaching "One Great Hour of Sharing", which comes this year on March 11th. Its observance is growing among our churches and it has become an indispensable part of Our Christian World Mission.

The need for this special appeal is undiminished. We rejoice at all that has been accomplished in the year just passed; but while the fires of hatred or natural catastrophe may die down in some areas, they break out only too easily and with renewed fierceness in others. The recent unprecedented floods in India, and the inexplicable riots in Istanbul are two outstanding examples of such unanticipated catastrophes. These have challenged all of us through whose minds there run the recurring words "Inasmuch as ye did it — or did it not — unto one of the least of these, my brethren . . . "

Through our own Service Committee and agencies like Church World Service and the World Council of Churches, with which the Service Committee cooperates, we all have a chance, a glorious, thrilling chance, to help. In His Name that help is carried to people so remote they fear themseves forgotten, and often so bitter or bewildered that they doubt even God's care. But He does care, and through One Great Hour you and your people can make that divine care humanly effective.

Earl H. Ballou, Executive Secy.
Congregational Christian
Service Committee

New Format For *Southeast News*

Subscribers will note that the *Southeast News* has a NEW LOOK this issue! For some time we have been discussing a change of publishers in order to have a more modern, easier-to-read type and a three-column layout. This was recommended to us by Rev. Everett Parker, of the national Office of Communication. Mr. Parker has made a study of this phase of "communications" and is considered an authority nationally.

Another factor in the decision, and a most important one, is that the magazine will be printed here in the South instead of way up in Michigan — *The Roanoke Leader* of Roanoke, Ala., is the publisher. Thus we can now read proof on the magazine and this will mean fewer errors. Also, the cost of publication will be less per issue, making quite a saving on the twelve issues per year.

But of course we would rather have the magazine actually READ by the subscribers—if it isn't read, then it isn't worth the time, effort and expense of publication. So let us know how you like it, and give us your criticisms and suggestions for ways to improve it.

When in God thou believest, near God thou wilt certainly be.—C. G. Leland

SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE

"Seeing, Reading and Remembering"

The title of my page does sound a little strange, but please read all three columns and you'll find why I'm concerned about "seeing, reading, and remembering".

First, though, look at the picture. That's real snow and at least Miss Annie was shivering. The picture was taken in front of the Inn at Buck Hills, Pa., where this year's Congregational Christian Midwinter Meetings were held from Jan. 27 to Feb. 2. Included in the meeting were representatives of the Women's Fellowship, Laymen's Fellowship, Colleges and Seminaries (Dean Benton of Vanderbilt School of Religion attended but was not on hand when we took the picture), and Conference Convention and National staff personnel.

These meetings are workshop sessions in which all groups help in laying plans for the advancement of Our Christian World Mission for the coming year. This winter our theme was "Workmen Unashamed" and our text II Timothy 2:15. You'll be hearing more of this important meeting in the next issue of the *Southeast News* from your other representatives, so now let's get back to that strange title at the head of the page.

Every minister and church leader gets lots of mail. Much of that mail comes from the various Boards and Committees of the national fellowship. Almost all of that mail is important, or it would not have been sent. Every envelope brings important information, news, announcements, or printed materials with a story to tell. It is expected that the ones receiving these communications will *do something* or at least pass the information along to the congregation or the logical local church group.

But, too often, the mail gets side-tracked by the minister, church clerk, treasurer, board or committee chairman and the information is lost and the job never is done. We know far too little about the workings of the larger fellowship — what's going on and why, and one of the big reasons is that we just don't see, read and remember our mail, the pamphlets on the literature table, or even the *Southeast News* (surely everyone receiving the *Southeast News* reads it from cover to cover!).

Well, anyway, we know there is a bottleneck somewhere because information is just not getting through. To find out why, the Rev. Armstrong Hunter of the Missions Council staff made a study. Last week he reported the findings of that study to the Superintendents for our enlightenment and amazement. Here's what was found:

"A sample of 30 Congregational Christian pastors was interviewed concerning the printed materials which they read and used. Each pastor was shown 67 pieces of material sent out by the boards and agencies and was asked questions about each, such as:

—do you remember this item?
—did you read it?
—if not, what did you do with it?
—do you remember what it said?
—did you do anything as a result of reading?

"The number of pamphlets which any one pastor remembered *seeing* varied between 6 and 48. The number of pamphlets *read* varied between 3 and 30. Those pamphlets of which any one pastor *remembered* the contents varied between 1 and 28.

"In the majority of cases pamphlets which had not been read were either *filed* or *destroyed*, but in some cases where a pastor had not read a piece he had passed it on to lay leaders, such as the S. S. Supt., the women's or PF president, or to Finance and Missionary Education committees, trustees, etc. In other cases the pastor placed the piece on literature tables or in the pews on Sunday morning without having first read it himself.

"One pamphlet had not been seen by anyone at all! Twenty-eight pamphlets were considered by those who read them to be asking for action. The number who considered this action important varied between 9 and 19. From 1 to 16 pastors did something as a result of reading these pamphlets!"

Oh, me! And we send out so much mail from this office, to say nothing of all that goes direct from

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Left to Right: Rev. Annie Campbell, Mrs. Arnold Slater, Miss Marguerite Davison, Rev. Clyde Flannery, Mrs. Frank Gordon, Supt. Butterfield, Mrs. Raymond Berry and William Frank Gordon.

Reuben J. Cooley, SUC Dean of Labor, with Miss Maggie Lossie from Cherokee, N. C. Maggie teaches basket weaving, and will be happy to visit church groups in the area.

Professor Yoh Honored

Southern Union College has received word from the National Poetry Association, Los Angeles, that the poem "Silence," written by Professor Robert C. Yoh of the college faculty, will be included in the National Anthology of Poetry, soon to be published. The selection was made from over eight thousand manuscripts submitted by instructors, professors and librarians all over America.

Mr. Yoh is in his second year on the SUC campus. He teaches English Composition, Literature and Art; directs the college choir; and is faculty advisor to two student publications: the *Southern Unionaire,* a weekly news sheet, and the *Bison,* the yearbook.

Before coming to Southern Union, Mr. Yoh taught in public schools in Vermont. He is an ordained minister of the Congregational Christian churches. Several of his writings have been published by religious magazines and he is the author-composer of a three-act musical comedy, "The Sign of the Unicorn," which has been presented by professional and little theater groups in New England.

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right.—Abraham Lincoln

Southern Union News

A new committee, composed of students and faculty, has been organized for the purpose of promoting the college. The group meets weekly to discuss advertising media, promotional ideas and to evaluate public relations techniques. Douglas Wasson, director of public relations at SUC, is chairman and the group is called the "Public Relations Advisory Committee." Other faculty members are President Clyde C. Flannery, College Chaplain Carl J. Landes and Registrar Alta I. MacLaren. Student members are Miss Billie McGlawn, Kenneth Murphree, Maynard Foster, John Hodges, Ralph Knight and Julius Heath.

Students and faculty from the college visited with the Senior classes of a selected group of high schools in the east central section of Alabama on Feb. 1. The program is known as "Southern Union Day" and is a part of a concerted effort to acquaint high school students with the school program.

Counties visited included Randolph, Chambers, Coosa, Talladega, Cleburne, Calhoun, St. Claire, Clay, Chilton, and Tallapoosa. The program was organized and sponsored by Dean Albert Van Cleave and Douglas Wasson.

Twelve delegates from the college attended the annual meeting of the Council of Southern Mountains, Inc., at Gatlinburg, Tenn., Feb. 8-11. While at the meeting the SUC delegates studied the Christian motivation as the undergirding force for all institutions and individuals at work in Appalachia. Dr. Robert Metcalfe of Crossville, Tenn., was chairman this year.

Those attending were Misses Billie McGlawn, Nanci Lingner, Billie Ruth Smelley, and Jackie Bass; Julius Heath, Doyle Green, Robert Bain, Lawrence Manning, Gordon Denney, and James Kimbrough. The Rev. Carl J. Landes and Douglas Wasson accompanied the group.

"Message from Khufu," a dramatic one act play by Stewart Cotman and LeVerne Shaw, was presented by an all male cast at the SUC student assembly on Jan. 20. Coleman Brooks played the role of the professor of archeology and Tom Shreve, Jack McGlawn and Julius Heath were the "helpers."

Challenge To Christianity

(Continued from Page 2)

sible. Disease and epidemics wait around the corner.

Some one hundred thousand orphans in South Korea are homeless, with no one to care for them. They are on the streets, begging or stealing. Their resulting moral future is ominous to contemplate.

In South Korea, apart from the thousands of disabled soldiers, more than 20,000 civilian amputees — men, women and children —have lost one or both arms or legs in the bombing of cities and villages. The sight of those little boys and girls lying in hospital cribs or on the streets with only stumps for arms and legs wrings one's heart.

I wonder if Christianity ever before faced quite such a challenge of appalling human need?

Throughout Asia and Africa and the Middle East are areas of heartbreaking need. In some of these, life expectancy at birth is only 32 years. One out of every three babies dies before its first birthday.

Those suffering from malaria in Asia today equal the total population of the Western hemisphere, and every year some three million of these sufferers die.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reports that fully half the world's people are still inadequately housed, clothed and nourished.

The Mohammedan world is not meeting this tragic far-flung need. Neither is the Buddhist world. Neither are the Hindus.

Were Christ living today, in the face of the appalling need, is there any doubt which way He would turn? Would He not be, as of old, feeding the hungry—those hungry in body as well as in soul—bringing help to individual suffering men and women?

Is it not the clear duty of the Christian churches to lead the way? Should not the Christian churches be working even more powerfully along the lines which Christ taught 1900 years ago?

Church World Service, on behalf of the Protestant Churches of America, on behalf of you and me, is doing just that. To peoples suffering and in sore distress, many of them uprooted and driven from their homes, Church World Service, in humility and love — and

Council For Social Action

February is the month in which our denominational emphasis is centered in our Council for Social Action. A simple description of the functions and mission of CSA is found in the following statements:

"The *functions* of the Council for Social Action are to help the church make the Christian Gospel *more effective* in society, national and world-wide, through research, education and action."

"In the interplay of two forces (the Christian Gospel and the World) we have our *mission* — to translate the Gospel into the decisions of man in society so that he will belong to God and to his brother, and to reform the forces of society and re-direct its currents that it may heal and not destroy people."

These statements are part of the report to the Missions Council by Dr. Ray Gibbons on the work of CSA last year.

Summer CSA Institutes

The Summer CSA Institutes will be held this year as follows: Framingham, Mass., July 24-28; Chicago Theological Seminary, Sept. 10-14.

These Institutes are of interest to all persons of the Church, and especially helpful to pastors, social action leaders, chairmen of church committees and study groups. The cost of room, board and registration is about $20 per person.

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in tangible terms — is interpreting the Spirit of Christ.

To those in deep distress government agents can minister to the body. But not to suffering souls. Here lies rare work for the Christian churches, uniting many Communions in a unique service. Such work deserves our best support.

It is entirely through our individual help and support that Church World Service functions. If the Christians of America give it the assistance and financial help it asks, the world may gain a new understanding of what Christ's love can mean against distress and disaster.

God can build His Kingdom only with the help of human hands and hearts. He is waiting today in this challenging crisis of history for our help.

DEDICATION OF UNION GROVE CHURCH

On Jan. 15 the congregation of Union Grove Church of Haleyville, Ala., dedicated their newly rebuilt Sanctuary. It has been enlarged from thirty by forty to thirty by fifty-eight feet, and completely brick-veneered outside and finished with knotty pine inside. Two new Sunday School rooms have been added; one for the nursery department and the other for the juniors. Gas heat has been installed.

The work was begun Aug. 8 and completed, except for some minor finishing, on Nov. 11. The total cost was around $4,000, and this with an active membership of only sixteen.

Although the present membership is small, the possibilities are very good for growth. The church is going immediately to two services every third Sunday with two services on the first Sunday to be added in the near future.

The dedication service began with short messages by Dr. Guy Colbert, pastor at large in North Alabama, and the Rev. Robert Shelton, former pastor. Then the present pastor, the Rev. Earnest Shelton, called on Dr. Colbert, as chairman of the Committee on Ministry and Churches, to preside. After the services a fellowship dinner was enjoyed.

Church officers are as follows: Church clerk, P. M. Pulliam; Board of Deacons—P. M. Pulliam, Elton Hill and C. L. Nations.

Reverends Colbert, E. Shelton, and R. Shelton

The Building Committee is composed of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Nations, Mr. and Mrs. Pierce Pulliam, Mrs. Hazel Kemp, and Mrs. Pearl Hill.

— Mrs. Pierce Pulliam, Reporter

For more than a thousand years the Bible, collectively taken, has gone hand in hand with civilization, science, law; in short, with the moral and intellectual cultivation of the species, always supporting and often leading the way.—Coleridge

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All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.—Emerson

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Building Committee of Union Grove Church

Home And Family Life

Many of our finest hopes are fostered first in the home and family. With the help and guidance of the Church they become realities. Thus the world is drawn close to Christ and His way of life. To do God's will is an inevitable and compelling desire in the hearts of men, although individually we may often falter.

Families fall into four groups: 1) Newly married, without children; 2) Expanding families, with children up to 18 years; 3) Contracting families, where children are away at school, at work, or married; 4) Static families, with unmarried children over 18, with no children, widow, widower or single adults.

The family centered church helps develop church - centered families who: 1) Establish within the home a sense of Christian values which are the foundation for all decisions and actions; 2) Share actively in the church life and programs; 3) Provide a democratic atmosphere in which members learn respect for the opinions and personalities of others; 4) Play together by planning family vacations, picnics, hobbies, etc.; 5) Worship together through grace at meals, special observances or family prayer; 6) Realize that its life and possessions are the gifts of God and therefore share its time, treasure, and talents; 7) Grow in understanding and practice of the Christian Faith through study, discussion, worship and action.

The family centered church plans its program to include: 1) Counseling, with young couples getting married and families already established; 2) Worship, providing meaningful experience for all age levels; 3) Study and discussion groups— boy-girl reationships, preparation for marriage; 4) Church school, for all ages with strong emphasis on the home-half of the program; 5) Service, within the local church and throughout the world with opportunities for all members to participate; 6) Fellowship, through a variety of Family Nights, picnics, camps—where all members share together in play, work or worship; 7) Resources, for family worship, loving and

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Mrs. Keck To Speak At Rallies

A Congregational Christian lay leader in South Dakota during the days of the "black blizzards, drought and grasshopper invasions," as well as among the Indian Americans of that state, Mrs. Samuel W. Keck, now of Bronxville, N. Y., will speak at the Pilgrim Fellowship meeting in Chattanooga March 17-18. She will also serve in a panel discussion and participate in the workshop sessions.

From Chattanooga Mrs. Keck will begin a tour of the Southeast Convention as the speaker for the Women's Rallies from March 19 through March 30.

Mrs. Samuel W. Keck

Mrs. Keck, whose husband was Superintendent of South Dakota and is now with the denominational ministerial relief board in New York, made her home in Rapid City, where 3500 of the 25,000 population are Indian Americans.

When the depression and drought of the thirties with dust storms and grasshopper pests hit South Dakota, Dr. Keck, with more than 175 churches in his care, was faced with a reduced staff. The same thing happened during World War II when so many ministers went into the chaplaincy. Through all these critical days Mrs. Keck worked shoulder to shoulder with her husband, often pinch-hitting in churches where there were no pastors and for fifteen years speaking in some church almost every Sunday.

The Kecks had a varied parish in South Dakota, which included three types of Congregational Churches: English-speaking, German and Indian. They also administered the Board of Home Missions budget to the Indian churches and for nine years worked closely with these churches, becoming well acquainted with the social, educational and religious problems and opportnuities among them.

SPRING RALLY SCHEDULE

The Spring Rallies of the Women's Fellowship will be held from March 19 through March 30, with each local district president in charge of the rally. In Georgia, Mrs. Wm. Frank Gordon will report on the Midwinter Meeting, in Alabama Mrs. Raymond Berry will give the report, and Mrs. Arnold Slater will report to the Kentucky-Tennessee women. All three attended the meetings. Mrs. Gordon is Georgia president, and Mrs. Berry and Mrs. Slater are vice-presidents of Alabama and Kentucky-Tennessee respectively. The Rev. Annie R. Campbell will accompany Mrs. Samuel W. Keck, the guest speaker for all rallies.

March 19 — North Georgia Rally at Demorest Federated Church

March 21 — Central Rally at Woodbury Jones Chapel Church

March 22 — South Georgia Rally at Tifton First Church

March 24 — South Alabama-NW Florida at Headland Blackwood

March 26 — Central Alabama Rally at Eclectic Watson Chapel (night meeting)

March 27 — East Alabama Rally at Lanett Church (night)

March 29 — North Alabama Rally

March 30 — Kentucky - Tennessee Rally at Pilgrim, Chattanooga

At each rally a dedication service for Woman's Gift will be held, and an interesting program has been planned with local church groups participating.

We spend entirely too much time trying to find out what the trouble is with everybody else.

Church News . . .

The Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Berry of *Andalusia Antioch* Church, held their annual open house the first Sunday in January. Mrs. Berry served refreshments and the afternoon was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our Adult Bible Study group has a question box in which everyone is invited to ask a question on any part of the Bible. Each person is given one question and expected to answer it the following Sunday night. This question-and-answer series has aroused much interest and is building up attendance.

A separate devotional is now held for the younger children before Sunday School. They meet with their teachers and Mrs. Berry for a fifteen-minute devotional, and we begin at 9:45 in order to have more class time. A perfect attendance program has been started and we hope to give out many three-month pins and continue it indefinitely.

The Women's Missionary Society had the pleasure of seeing the Woman's Gift film-strip recently. We were happy to have the Coldwater and Andalusia First groups see it with us.

—Winnie Dye, Reporter

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On Jan. 22 a service of ordination and installation of deacons, deaconesses and trustees was held at the *Andalusia First Church.* Conducting the service and bringing the message of the evening was the pastor, the Rev. Scott Morris Jr.

All the boards in the church organization have recently been revised and reorganized. The new Board of Deacons and Deaconesses consists of B. D. Locklier, Hilton Blackmon, Grover Scott, Earl Threatt, Alfred Adams, W. M. Kelley, Mesdames Grover Scott, LeRoy Peevy and Earl Wilson. The Deacons ordained at this time were Hilton Blackmon, Earl Threatt, and Y. M. Kelley. The entire board was installed in this service.

The Board of Trustees installed at this same service consisted of Arkie Polson, Glenn Brunson, O. C. Graves, John Fore, LeRoy Peevy and W. A. Andress.

The pastor's message for this service was entitled "The Servant's High Calling".

— Scott Morris Jr., Pastor

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The *United Church* of Phenix City continues to publish an interesting monthly *Newsletter.* The January issue reports that receipts for the first quarter (Oct., Nov., Dec.) were over $3,200. If the rate of giving continues there will be a gain of $4,000 for the year.

The congregation is maintaining its tempo of adding and improving the equipment and buildings. Here are some of the things since last November: outside sound system in bell tower, speaker and microphone system in the sanctuary and nursery, electric hot water heater in kitchen, paint and papering in classrooms, floodlights over pulpit and choir in the sanctuary, an Addressograph machine and file system for the church office, four tables for the dining hall, fifty chairs, five new church road signs bought and erected.

The Rev. John Crutcher said, "These things, and others, can be added to our church because of the visionary giving of consecrated Christian church people like ours."

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The annual business meeting was held at *Dorcas Church,* Crestview, Fla., on Jan. 4 and the following officers were elected: Clerk, Mrs. Pearl M. Powell; treasurer, Mrs. Maureen McCallum; financial secretary to the treasurer, Mrs. Amy McCallum; reporter, Miss Lenora McCallum; supt., Mrs. Pearl M. Powell; asst. supt., Ollie B. Gatlin; secretary, Miss Lenora McCallum; Deacons, W. W. McCallum, Allen Hart and Charles Wilkins; Deaconesses, Mrs. Grace McCallum, Mrs. Lula Hart and Mrs. Annie Wilkins; Trustees, Alex Hinote, Alex McCallum, E. C. Bowden, John Powell, and S. D. Boothe. An installation service for these officers was held on Jan. 15.

February will begin a new plan for the northwest Florida churches. The present pastor, the Rev. Ralph Worley, will serve only two churches—Dorcas and Good Hope, with each church having two Sundays per month services instead of one.

—Lenora McCallum, Reporter

Evarts First Church held its annual meeting on Jan. 11, and reviewed the accomplishments of the past year, as well as making plans for the year ahead. New officers were elected as follows: Mrs. Audrey Van Pelt, clerk; Walter Asher Jr., treasurer; Miss Doris Turner, benevolence treasurer; Mrs. Dennis Ball, financial secretary; Miss Betty R. Pace, corresponding secretary; N. B. Smith, church historian; Mrs. T. C. Linkous, organist; and W. A. Buckner, choir director.

Orbin Coleman, C. L. Howard and J. H. Turner are Deacons; and Deaconesses are Mrs. N. B. Smith, Mrs. Hallie Repass, Mrs. Dorothy Jody, and Mrs. E. L. Vaughn, Deaconesses Emeritus.

The Board of Trustees consists of Ernest Ray Smith, N. B. Smith, Jim Sergent, Carson Coleman, and E. L. Vaughn.

Church School officers are Miss Ethel Wyatt and W. A. Buckner, superintendents; Mrs. Wilma Asher, secretary; Miss Wanda Rowland, assistant secretary; and Mrs. John Cox and Mrs. Charles Scoville, PF advisors.

The church budget for 1956 has been set at $5,546, with $360 for OCWM.

There are two PF groups, and two Women's Fellowship circles—all with good records of Achievement in the past year. Mrs. W. E. Peirce is president of Circle No. 1, and Miss Ethel Wyatt is president of the Lois Vincent circle.

—from the annual church report

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The *Oak Grove Church* of Chipley will have a special service Mar. 11 to dedicate the chancel and furnishings and re - decorating of the church, which has recently been painted on the exterior and interior. New light fixtures and windows have been installed, and pews with cushions were purchased.

Superintendent Erston M. Butterfield will preach the morning sermon, and Dr. David W. Shepherd, former superintendent of the Southeast Convention and also former pastor of Oak Grove Church, will speak at the afternoon service and conduct the dedication. Plans for remodeling were

made during his pastorate which are now completed.

The afternoon service will begin at 1:30 p. m., and nearby pastors, former pastors and friends of the church are cordially invited to attend. The Rev. Henry C. Weaver is the pastor.

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The congregation of *Union Hill Church* of Pearson held its regular quarterly meeting Jan. 11 and heard the reports of the pastor, officers and departments. Robert E. Bazemore was elected to the office of trustee to serve until the annual meeting. Six new members were voted upon and accepted into the church membership. The pastor, the Rev. Dixon Stimpson, proposed a number of recommendations and goals.

It was decided to start a Deacon's Fund immediately and provision was made for the financing of the fund. To assist tithing, envelopes are being purchased and distributed. The church is taking steps to incorporate within the laws of the state and a constitution and by-laws are being considered. It was agreed to secure necessary evangelical literature and undertake a Lenten Visitation program. The pastor set a goal of 50 new members for the year. Church promotional data will be distributed to acquaint the community with Congregational Christian history and policy. It was also agreed to purchase and use bulletins for the worship service.

Another important step was the decision to inaugurate a bookkeeping system for finances and to systematize the registry of members. The congregation approved the suggestion that the church work in close cooperation with other denominations in the area.

Before adjourning it was unanimously decided to elect all delegates and alternates well in advance to all association, convention or conference meetings so they might be fully informed and instructed and could best reflect the attitude of the church.

A walnut cross and candle holders were dedicated at the morning worship service Jan. 8. This altar set is so placed as to direct the thoughts of the worshippers to the altar and its significance.

Three members by letter, two by re-affirmation of faith and one by baptism and confession were welcomed into Christian fellowship Jan. 15. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed at that time.

The Men's Club has been reorganized, and met at the parsonage Jan. 5. The club purchased a refrigerator for the parsonage and planned two projects — the purchase of a typewriter for the church and the building of the Deacon's Fund. Four non-members of the church were present and assisted in the program. Tavell Courson and Herman Sears were elected president and secretary-treasurer, respectively.

A class in the study of the Bible, Its Books and the Men Who Wrote Them, has been started by the pastor to supplement the Biblical Theology taught by lay-minister H. Yancey Sears.

—Dixon Stimpson, pastor

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Under the leadership of our pastor, the Rev. W. M. McCullars, and with the help of church members, *West Point Bethel* Sunday School rooms are ready for classes. Heaters were installed, and we are going forward rapidly on finishing the kitchen.

Our Sunday school is showing much growth and improvement under the superintendent and assistant superintendent.

The Women's Missionary Circle continues to grow in interest and membership, and attendance at our regular services and prayer meetings is also increasing.

—Mrs. Will Aaron, reporter

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Waycross, *Williams Chapel Church* is another of the forward-looking churches of the Southeast Convention that has begun a monthly news bulletin to be mailed out to all members and friends of the church. The news bulletin is sponsored by the Laymen's Fellowship.

The building fund of the church has grown to the amount of $2,458, as of December 31. Clarence E. Blount is treasurer.

The Women's Fellowship of the church has been active since its organization in 1932. At times there have been only a few members, but it has continued its work and has now grown to two groups of women. Both groups have several projects, and are helping with the building fund.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Griffin were elected counselors for the Pilgrim Fellowship, and the group is progressing under their leadership. Edward Knight Jr., Larry Knight, Genette Sweat, Joyce Thomas and Harriet Shaw attended the Youth Rally in Tifton recently.

The pastor and Mrs. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Long, Charlie Griffin and Miss Marie Griffin went to Douglas for the Workers Council meeting.

—Williams Chapel News Bulletin

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The *Vanceville Church,* near Tifton, is sponsoring one of the children in the Elon Orphanage—a six-year-old boy named Eugene Ray. They sent him a package for Christmas, and will remember him on Easter, his birthday and other special occasions.

The Women's Fellowship has increased in number and interest since a Men's Fellowship was organized in the church to meet on the same evening.

Our younger PF group will have a sweet potato patch for the church this year. Mrs. W. A. Hand offered the land and will help the children hoe. Mr. A. J. Mixon will do the plowing.

A-2C Arthur B. Hand, who has been in Greenland the past 12 months, spent 30 days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hand, returning to his base in San Antonio, Texas on Dec. 6. Airman Hand has been a faithful member of this church since he was a small boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allen had all their children home for Christmas — three sons and one son-in-law in the service. Johnny is stationed at Ft. Bragg, N. C.; Bobby in California; and Billy at Albany, Ga. J. H. McKuen is also at Albany. The eldest son and son-in-law have recently been discharged and are home to stay now.

—Mrs. Rosie Hand, reporter

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The *United Church* of LaGrange had many and varied activities during the year 1955 and plans are under way for a bigger and better 1956.

The Women's Missionary Fellowship is quite active and with other groups of the church gave

1956 European Seminar

The Council for Social Action announces plans for the European Study and Travel Seminar, which will leave New York on June 30 for a 38-day visit to France (4 days), Germany (6 days), The Soviet Union (10 days), Finland (4 days), Sweden (3 days), Holland (3 days), England (6 days).

Official assurance from the Soviet Embassy has been given that members of the Seminar can have the necessary visas. The U. S. State Department is cooperating.

The cost of the Seminar is $1595, and leaders will be Dr. Herman Reissig and his wife, Frances Reissig.

Additional information is available from the Convention office or from the Council for Social Action office, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Bible is a book of faith, and a book of doctrine, and a book of morals, and a book of religion, of special revelation from God; but it is also a book which teaches man his own individual responsibility, his own dignity, and his equality with his fellow man. — Daniel Webster

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Confidence always pleases those who receive it. It is a tribute we pay to their merit, a deposit we commit to their trust, a pledge that gives them a claim upon us, a kind of dependence to which we voluntarily submit.—La Rochefoucauld

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assistance to others at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Our choir, with Mr. Hollis Tidwell as director and Mrs. Tidwell as organist, presented a beautiful candlelight program on Dec. 18 with our pastor, the Rev. John E. Pickens Jr., as narrator. On Dec. 22 the choir went carolling for shutins and older members of the church.

We are looking forward to the coming of Dr. Dennison in February to conduct a Stewardship Institute. A revival has been planned for March. Our motto is " A Stranger Only Once," and a cordial invitation is extended to everyone to worship with us.

—Mrs. John Laubenthal, reporter

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP NEWS

PF MEETING MARCH 17-18

Pilgrim Fellowship groups all over the Southeast Convention are making plans to attend the second annual convention-wide PF meeting, to be held this year at Pilgrim Church in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The program committee has planned an interesting and worthwhile session, and featured speakers will be Supt. Erston M. Butterfield, Dr. Paul Reynolds, Mrs. Samuel Keck of New York, Rev. Raymond Berry and other outstanding leaders.

The program registration blanks and full information will be mailed out to all groups very soon. Early registration is most urgently requested.

Each PF group may have four official voting delegates plus the adult advisor. Visiting delegates are welcome, but will have to make their own housing arrangements, as the Pilgrim PF can only take care of the delegates.

The cost will be $3.50 each, which includes registration and the banquet.

On Jan. 14-15 a Senior PF weekend rally was held for South Georgia young people at the Tifton First Church. Leaders were Millard Fuller, SEC president of PF; and the Reverends Dixon Stimpson, Goff Bedford, and Henry Abbott.

Discussion groups were led by Millard, the Rev. Bedford and the Rev. Stimpson, and the Rev. Abbott preached for morning worship.

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A meeting of the PF groups of Central Georgia was held on the afternoon of Jan. 15 at the United Church in LaGrange. Miss Deborah Brewster, coordinator of the work of the Student Council on Religious Activities at Auburn University, was guest speaker. Workshops were led by Millard Fuller, Bill Green and the Rev. Annie R. Campbell.

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The Wadley District PF rally was held Jan. 22 at Elder Church in Dadeville. Guest speaker was Judge Coley, Probate Judge of Tallapoosa County, who spoke to the group about the young people's part in Christian work.

Workshops on the three commissions were held, led by the Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Millard Fuller, and V. R. Dobson. Albert Van Cleave led the group in games, and refreshments were served by the host church. Miss Campbell showed an interesting film on work among the Indian Americans — their problems and their hopes for the future.

—Gloria Blair, Reporter

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On Jan. 1 the Hunt Memorial PF elected new officers: Hugh Jones, president; Shirley Blair, vice-president; Joyce Pemberton, secretary; Jane Riley, treasurer; Dora Pemberton, reporter; Ralph Jones, action chairman; Gloria Blair, faith chairman; and Roger Whitley, fellowship chairman.

On New Year's Eve we had a party from seven until twelve, playing games and enjoying refreshments. At twelve we ended the party by ringing out the old year and ringing in the new.

—Dora Pemberton, Reporter

U. C. Y. M.

A movement is underway to organize a state-wide United Christian Youth Movement, and the following members of the Southeast Convention attended the initial organizational meeting held on Jan. 19: the Reverends Henry C. Weaver, John E. Pickens Jr., Annie R. Campbell and Miss Martha Starrett. Miss Starrett was also a member of the steering committee which planned the meeting held at the Wesley Memorial Building in Atlanta.

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the national boards to our churches!

Thank goodness, not all is just "filed or destroyed." Our Program of Progress is doomed for sure unless we can get more ministers, and people in our churches, to take their mail seriously. It's a little late for New Year's resolutions, I know, but why not make one anyway: "I solemnly promise to open all my mail, seeing, reading, and remembering what it says, and then take the necessary action so the right people—all the people—can have an effective share in the glorious task that is ours in Our Christian World Mission."

—Erston M. Butterfield

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Wm. K. Wilson
Rev. Howard E. Spragg
Missions Council
287 - 4th Avenue
287 Fourth Avenue
New York 10, New York
New York 10, N. Y.

Entered as Second Class

HISTORIC CHARLESTON

Charleston is one of America's oldest and most historic cities, still retaining some of the atmosphere of the 18th century. Many houses of that era still stand along its narrow, crooked streets.

The Battery, or water front, is the fashionable driving and promenading place. Walks and drives are lined with palmettos and offer views of the harbor with its historic forts, wharves and various kinds of vessels from cargo steamers to sailboats.

Charleston is famous for its gardens, almost unbelievably lovely, particularly in the height of the blooming season — mid-March until mid-April — although the gardens are usually open for a longer period and have some plants blooming at all times.

Points of Interest

Battery Park, overlooking the harbor and containing cannon and other relics of American wars and monuments.

Old Exchange Building, now a museum containing historical exhibits.

Cabbage Row, original of the "Catfish Row" of Heyward's novel "Porgy" and the operetta, "Porgy and Bess."

Gateway Walk (Garden Club of Charleston), offers an interesting walk through cemeteries and gardens and past many points of interest.

Old Powder Magazine, oldest building in the city (1703). Contains museum of historical material.

Old Slave Exchange, the old Charleston slave market, renovated and used as a museum for Negro industries and curios of slave days.

Charleston Museum, oldest in U. S., it contains a fine collection of arts, crafts, furniture, textiles and implements used in South Carolina from earliest days.

The above are only a few of the many interesting points in Charleston. There are also many old churches and gardens.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM OF ANNUAL MEETING

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

April 23-24-25, 1956

Theme: "With Love and Grace Divine"; Hymn: "God of Our Fathers"
Scripture: I Corinthians 16:13-14 RSV

The meeting will be called to order by the Moderator, the Rev. Archie Bedford, at 7:30 p. m. on Monday, April 23. Mr. Bedford will welcome the delegates, tell something of the history of historic Circular Church, and the Chaplain, the Rev. Raymond Berry, will lead the opening worship. Dr. Thos. Anderson will speak on "The Congregational Christian Message in the South."

On Tuesday, April 24, the sessions begin at 9:00 a. m. with worship led by the Chaplain and the first business session with staff and committee reports. Dr. Albert Buckner Coe, Moderator of the General Council, will speak on "Our Churches in American Life."

The fellowship meetings this year will be luncheons, held separately for the Women's Fellowship with Mrs. M. B. Porter presiding and Mrs. Wm. Emil Wissman as speaker; and for the laymen with Wm. Frank Gordon presiding and Walter Graham, Executive Secretary of the National Laymen's Fellowship, as the speaker. All ministers are invited to attend this luncheon.

The afternoon session on Tuesday will reconvene at 2:30 p. m. for the second business session, with Odell Yancey, the moderator-elect, presiding. Reports will be given from the fellowships, Mr. Graham will address the delegates and then the meeting will be dismissed for tours of city — either walking tours or bus tours, as preferred.

At 7:30 p. m. the evening session will begin with worship by the Chaplain, and a processional of groups in native garb representing the areas of major concern where the denomination is at work. The script for this procession will be prepared and read by Supt. Erston M. Butterfield.

Dr. Coe will again address the convention, with closing worship by the Chaplain at 9:00 p. m.

Wednesday morning will begin with the opening worship at 9:00 a. m. and the final business session. A Service of Installation of the elected officers and committee chairmen will be held, and a Service of Remembrance, followed by the Service of Communion, with adjournment at 11:30 a. m.

Each church is entitled to three voting delegates, and churches with membership over 100 may have one additional delegate for each 100 members. All ministers are voting delegates.

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growing within the home — books, pamphlets, etc.

Would you say your church is a family centered church? If not, would you like to make it so? Would you like to have materials and ideas for any of the following? a) A Home and Family Life program for your Women's Fellowship; b) Family Worship at Home; c) Graces to be said at meal time; d) Reading to be done by the family together; e) Copy of "A Parent's Prayer"; f) Family Nights at your church.

If you would like any of these, write to your conference president and it will be sent to you.

—Mrs. Wm. Frank Gordon, Pres. Georgia-S. C. Women's Fellowship

(Note: Mrs. M. B. Porter, coordinator of women's work for the Southeast Convention, has asked various state presidents and leaders in women's work to write articles for *Southeast News.* One will appear each issue.)